

NORTHSTAR

6 \$2.75 USA MATURE
\$3.35 CANADA APRIL 1993

**THE NEW STANDARD
IN SHOCK HORROR!**

LIMITED 1st PRINTING!

SPRING SPECIAL: THE SECOND COMING OF KLOWNSHOCK!

SPLATTER™

**RAFAEL NIEVES
JEFF MOY
PHIL MOY
CORY CARANI**

**THE SAME TEAM
AS LAST ISSUE
HAS ONLY
GOTTEN BETTER!**



"What?! Another issue of SPLATTER?"

That's right, dammit. We told you we was regular. Get used to it.

We've got quite a SPLATTER platter for you this time, so let's get to it:

Our cover is graced once again with the tortured talent of Steve Gould, who lost his head with this one (no, really!).

CAN'T LIVE WITH 'EM/CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT 'EM open and close this issue, respectively, and come to us courtesy of Eric Dinehart, Jeff Moy and Cory Carani. Eric is the writer of the much loved, much lusted after ELEMENTALS SEX SPECIALS, and proves, once again, that a good writer can write anything. The art team of Moy and Carani offer up a different, yet equally impressive, visual style from their BOOTS OF THE OPPRESSOR work last issue. This twin tale of love and undeath is sure to tug at your heartstrings and nip at your heels.

WEDDED BLITZ fulfills our promise last issue of keeping together the creepie™ who brought who brought you the soon to be classic SQUIRRELHEAD, Carolyn Warzala, Rafael Nieves, Rich Longmore, and Phil Moy. BLITZ is the kind of holiday tale that MARRIED...WITH CHILDREN would have produced, if they had the guts.

Rounding out this fright-feast is the return of everyone's favorite funnyman, KLOWNSHOCK, in a chilling first-of-three-chapters scribed by the perversely prolific Eric Dinehart, and inked by the equally busy Cory Carani, who are accompanied this time by last issue's PAWNSHOP penciller, Jeremie Johnson. This one's twisted, gang, but dismember; you asked for it.

And, finally, a special nod to Susan Dorne, letterer on CAN'T LIVE and KLOWNSHOCK. Bad letterers can ruin a good story. Good letterers can make a good story great. We think Susan's one of the best.

SEEK YOUR FAVORITE ISSUES.

No Hype File this time, sorry. What we have instead is a guest deaditorial by frequent contributor and COLD BLOODED scripster, Rafael Nieves. Raff?

Hiya, chillin's.

I just wanted to take a moment to comment on the hopefully obvious changes here at Northstar Pub., and its titles; changes that have made, for me at least, SPLATTER and SLASH (and the forthcoming COLD BLOODED), the horror rags to read.

For the 5 or 6 of you who have read my other work religiously, the idea of my writing horror may seem odd, indeed. After all, anyone who would write slice of life tales about white chicks in Africa is hardly a candidate for gory story scripting, right?

Not necessarily. In my opinion, good horror, like good science fiction, is a genre that reflects and relates the human condition. When a character is understood, is fully realized, whatever befalls that character is more deeply felt by the reader. At least, that's the theory.

It's certainly true in the case of this issue's CAN'T LIVE... wherein author Eric Dinehart explores the tortured psyche of his protagonist, the lonely driver on the road to nowhere. Dinehart makes us feel the guilt of his character keenly, so that, even when the inevitable (NOT predictable) happens, we are shocked. That's because we readers of horror are much more tolerant of our characters' foibles. In fact, we demand to see them, in a way that would not be allowed in the Cape and Cowl genre. Our suspension of disbelief is lessened, because we KNOW that shit happens. We see it every night on the news. Horrible shit. Shit that, admit it, fascinates us.

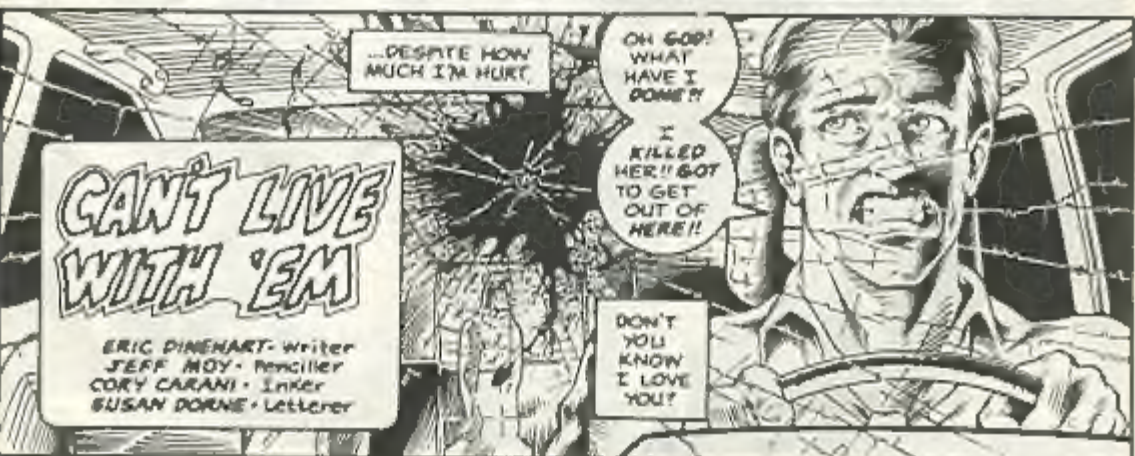
Northstar provides us with good horror, plain and simple. Or glitzy and complex, whichever you prefer. The point is, it's here, in these pages. Horror that is thought-provoking, visceral, intelligent, witty, and never, ever boring.

Or, I could just be filling up space here.

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Andrew Rev - President

Neil Trails - Art Director • Jerry Lwanag - Managing Editor • Brian Azzarello - Production Coordinator





YOU KEEP
ME FROM
YOUR
LIFE.

OUT OF HER MIND!
CAR'S A MESS! SHE
WALKED RIGHT
INTO ME!

WELL, I AIN'T
GOING TO TAKE
THE RAP FOR
HER STUPID--



DON'T YOU THINK
I DREAM?

WHAAA!!!
SEEING
THINGS?!

NO
WAY!

ALL I HAD
WAS ONE DRINK!
MUST BE REALLY
SHOOK!



DON'T YOU
FEEL MY NEED?

BAA!
PURE CRAP!
HEAD GAMES!

NOT
GOING TO
LET IT GET
TO ME!



DON'T YOU
HEAR ME
BREAK?

NOT
MUCH
FURTHER
--WHOA!

BLOOD!
COMING
THROUGH THE
WINDSHIELD?!

DON'T
YOU
SEE MY
DREAD?



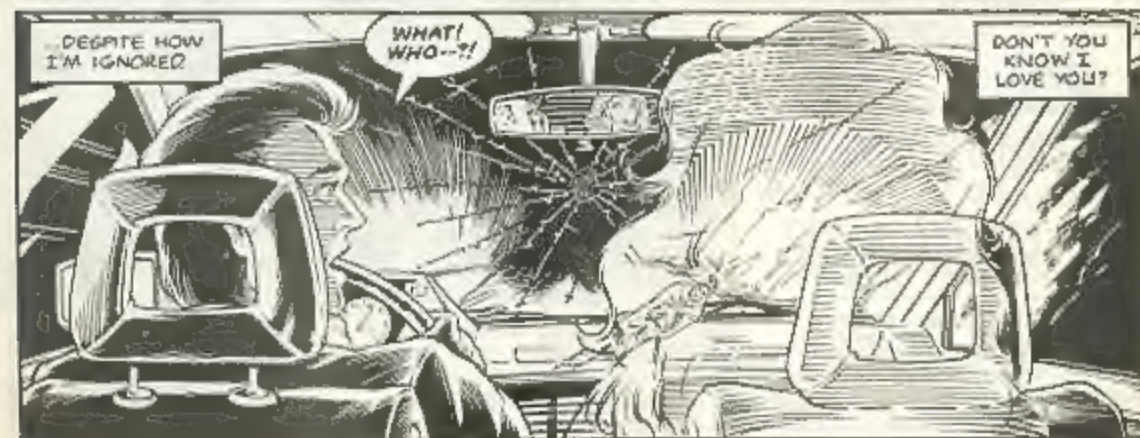
DON'T YOU SEE
ME BLEED?

NAH! IT'S
NOTHING! ALL
IN MY MIND!



AND
STILL,
I REACH
FOR YOU...

I AIN'T GOING
TO LET NO
SUICIDAL BROAD
GET TO ME!



DESPITE HOW
I'M IGNORED

WHAT!
WHO--?!

DON'T YOU
KNOW I
LOVE YOU?





YOU BLOOM
WITHIN
MY BODY.



THEN
YOU
FEEL
US
TENSE.



THEN YOU
HEAR US
CRY.



THEN YOU
SHARE
OUR
DREAD.



THEN YOU
KNOW
YOU'LL
DIE



AND STILL, I
REACH FOR YOU...



...DESPITE YOURSELF,
I LOVE YOU.

MY GOD! MY
GOD! I KILLED
HER!!

I HAVE TO...

I GOTTA
GET OUT OF
HERE!!

...DAMN
YOU.

End

KELLEY JONES



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Going, She
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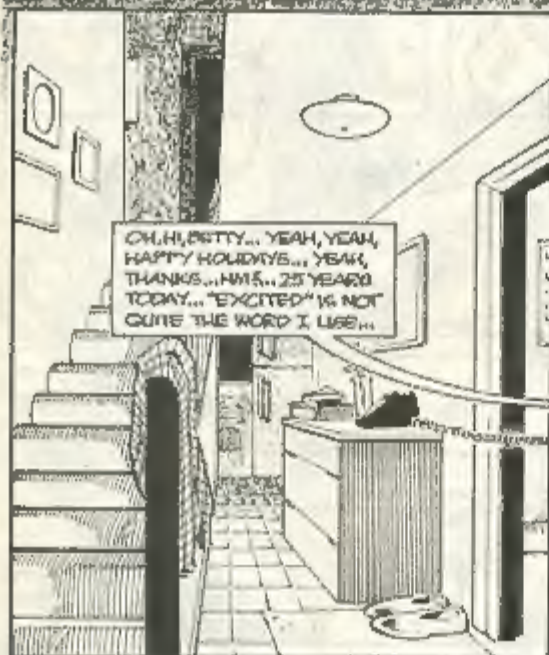
Don't Hesitate! Issues 1 & 2 Have Already Sold Out!

brüüing brüüink

HELLO?

WEDDED BLITZ

STORY & LETTERS: CAROLYNN WARTZALA & RAFAEL NIEVES ART: RICH LONGMORE & PHIL MOY





"SUGAR BUTTY?"

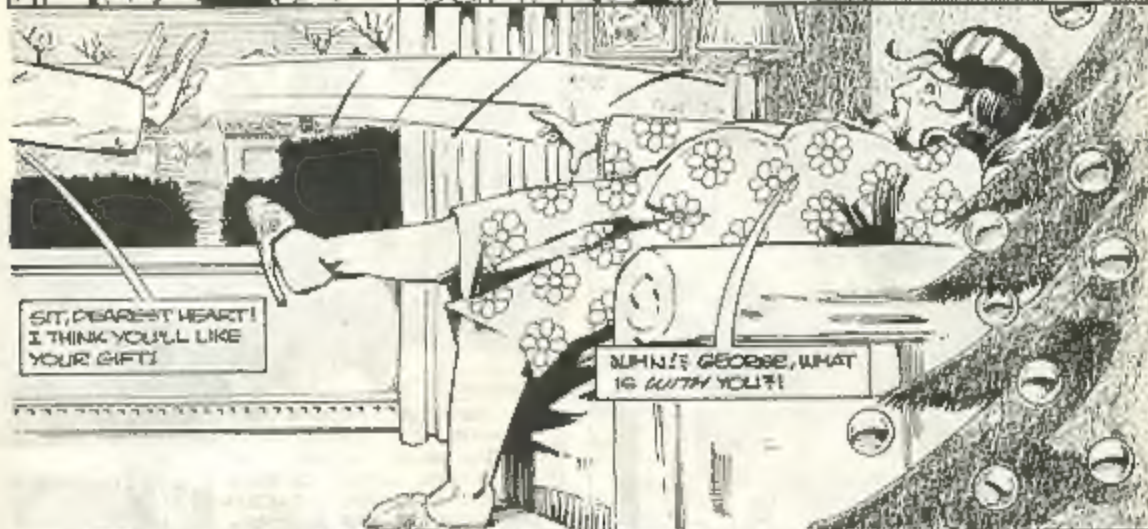
SMEK!

OH, HONEY, YOU LOOK SOO RADIANT TONIGHT! AFTER 25 YEARS, YOU'RE STILL A VISION OF BEAUTY. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED SINCE THE DAY WE MET.



SMOOKIE, I'M SOOO EXCITED! I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU WHAT I'VE BOUGHT! COME MY PET, COME GEE!

"SMOOKIE?! THIS BETTER BE A GOOD PRESENT."



SIT, DEAREST HEART! I THINK YOU'LL LIKE YOUR GIFT!

NUMN!! GEORGE, WHAT IS WITH YOU?!



OPEN, OPEN!

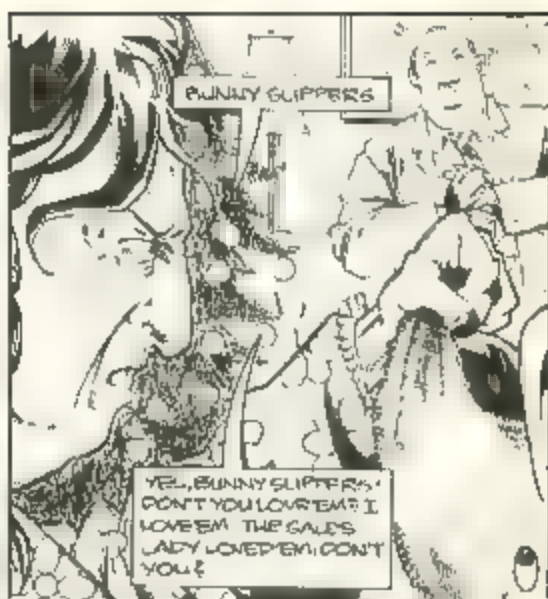
GEORGE, AFTER 25 YEARS OF LOUGH PRESENTS, I JUST DON'T THINK I CAN HANDLE THE DIS-SAPPOINTMENT.

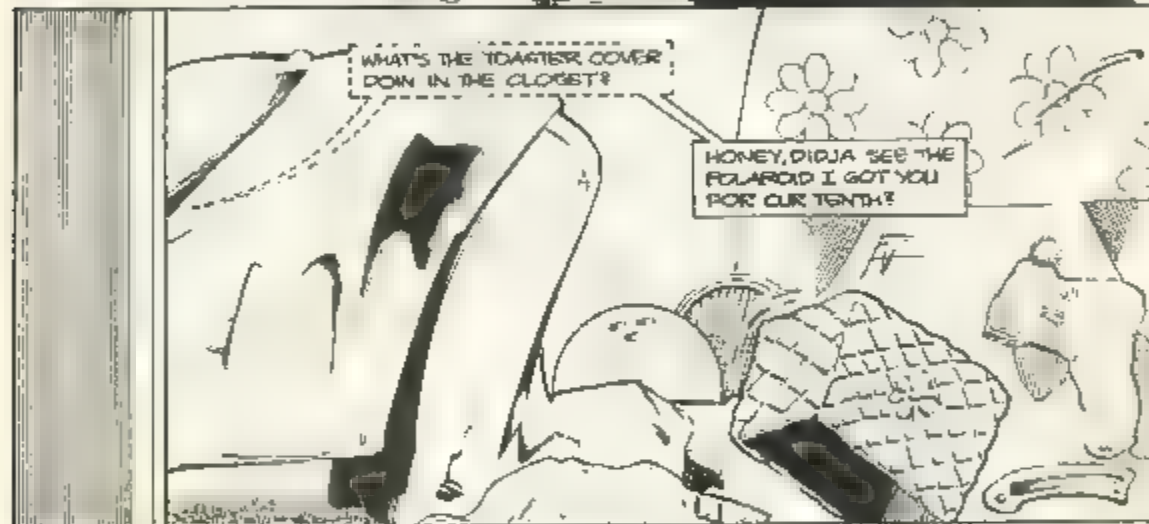


ALICE, I PROMISE, THIS, YOU WILL LOVE!

WILL YOU PLEASE LET ME UNWRAP IT MYSELF?!







I GO
SOMETHIN
FOR YOU!

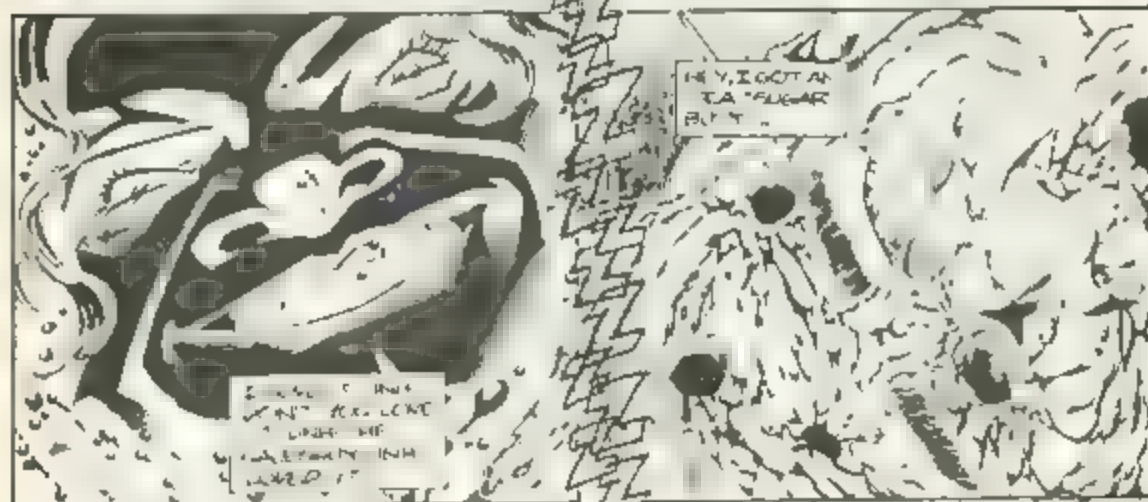
MERRY
CHRISTMAS,
DICKHEAD!

OH, YEAH,
ENJOY YOURS? WHA-WHU WHU-WHU WHU

DZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ

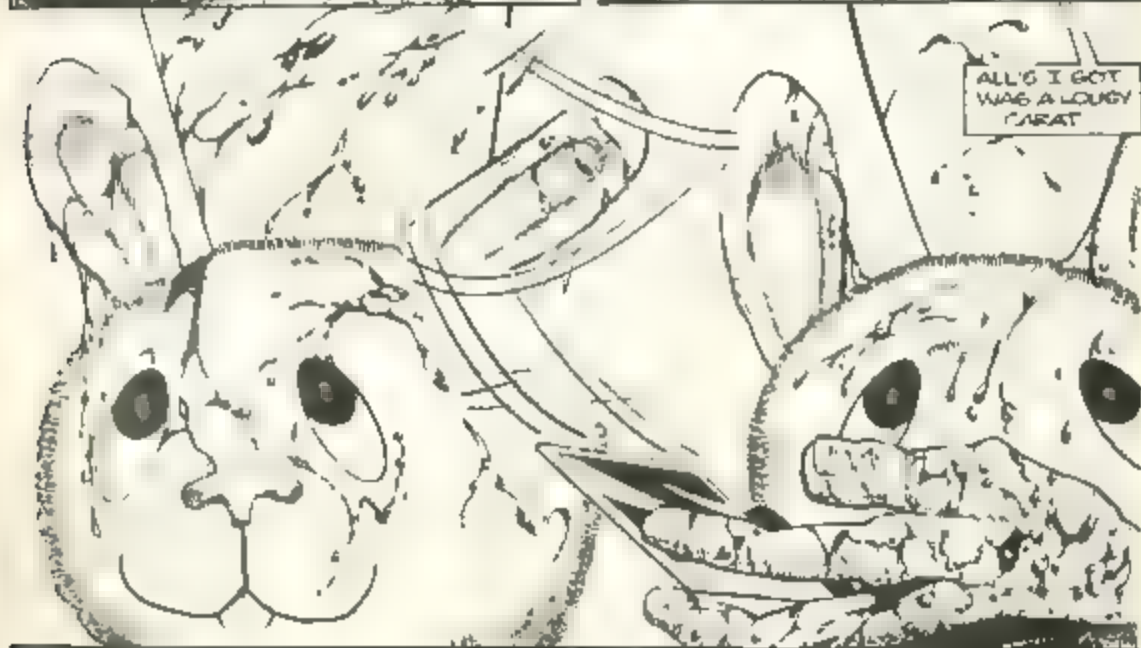
I THOUGHT I WAS ABOUT TO
GET THIS YOU-UNH-KIND
WHY UNDERSTANDING ME?

IT'S A JACK AND MEYER 2000
LINE "DELLA" WHIT FROM WITH
VARIADLY 1911 2000



LET'S TAKE A
PICTURE - MILE

CLIK [WHIRRR]





THE DEAD OF WINTER

BRAIN DAMAGED

HELLBENT

HUNGRY

AMERICAN

COLD BLOODED

FEBRUARY 1993

THE VAMPIRE SAGA WITH THE
HEAVY METAL SOUNDTRACK



His Name Is Breaker.

He Is A Charnal Priest.

He Likes His Job.

**He Lives In A Place
He Calls "Oblivion".**

**You Would
Know It As "Hell".**

He Is Coming to Earth.

He Wants To Meet You.

**He Wants To Take
You Home With Him.**

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full color glow-in-the-dark
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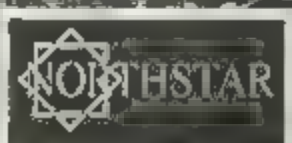
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IT WAS DEAD
QUIET NOTHING
MOVED ANYWHERE
THE UNIVERSE HAD
PAUSED AND
SILENCE FILLED
EVERYTHING

EVERYTHING
EXCEPT FOR
"THE THING"

IT WOULDN'T
STAY SILENT

AFTER WHAT
HAD JUST
HAPPENED,
GORDY FRANKS
KNEW THERE
SHOULD BE
SILENCE HE
DESPERATELY
WANTED IT

BUT THOUGH
GORDY KNEW HE
WAS ALIVE ONLY
BY GOD'S GRACE
AS LONG AS HE
COULD HEAR
"THE THING"

SO GORDY PRAYED
TO THE LORD HE
PRAYED THAT HE
WOULD NEVER
HAVE TO HEAR
OR SEE IT AGAIN

HE
PRAYED
FOR IT

GORDY KNEW
GOD WASN'T
LISTENING

HE PRAYED
AS IF HIS
LIFE
DEPENDS
ON IT

GORDY NOW
KNEW IT DID

TWENTY MINUTES EARLIER
HE HADN'T ALL HE'D KNOWN
THEN WAS THE MONGY HE
WAS GETTING FOR A LATE
NIGHT RUN

IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE CALL'D CAME IN AND HE'D
RACED HIS AMBULANCE TO THE ALLEY IT'D COME
FROM THAT GORDY SAW WHAT HE WAS PART OF.

TURN A BLIND
EYE ASK NO
QUESTIONS, AND
GORDY'D LAUGH
ALL THE WAY
TO THE BANK

THAT WAS WHEN
HE UNDERSTOOD

IT WAS NO LAUGHING
MATTER

KLOWNSHOCK the BEST MEDICINE

WRITTEN BY ERIC DINEHART
PENCILED BY JEREMY JOHNSON
INKED BY CORY CARANI
COLORED BY SUSAN DOANE

GORDY'D
NEVER
SEEN
ANYTHING
LIKE T
SOME
GROTESQUE
BOZO
GETTING
WASTED
RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF HIM

BUT I WAS
GOOD

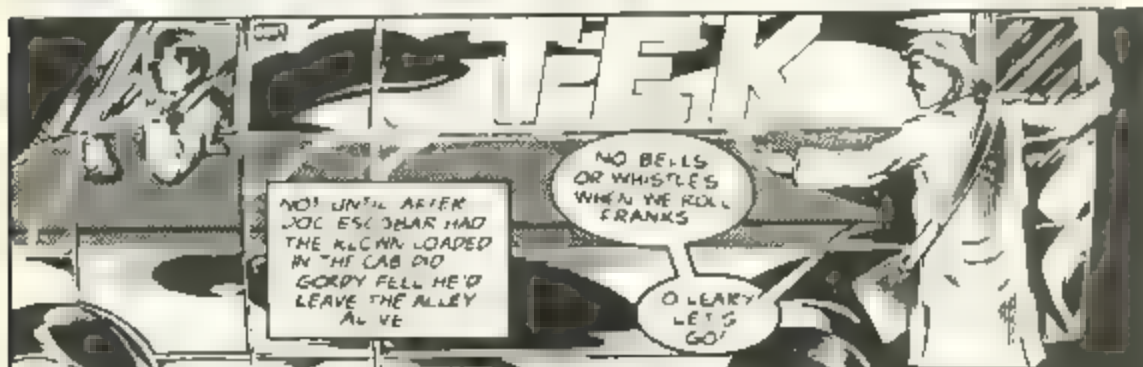
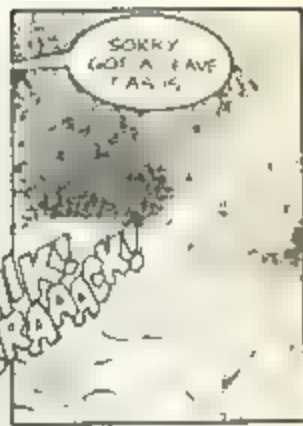
AN OLDDOWN BEAT COP GORDY'D
ONLY SEEN FROM AFAR BEFORE,
SOCKING ROUND AFTER ROUND
INTO THE CLOWN

AND THE GUY WHO'D HIRED
HIM - A DOCTOR FOR CHRIST'S
SAKE - JUST STANDING THERE,
CALM AS CRAP WATCHING,
WAITING

THAT
DID THE
TRICK
O'LEARY

DROP
DAMN
YOU
DROP!

OH
ANOTHER
DU WEE





NO IN THIRTY PLUS YEARS OF HOTFOOTING HIS CRATE AROUND CHICAGO GORDY'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE T

LEAVE THE BODYWRAP TO ME I'LL CLEAN UP

AND IN THAT MOMENT GORDY WASN'T A JRE HE WAS GOING TO LIVE TO SEE ANYTHING ELSE



RUSTLE YOURSELF ESCOBAR IN FIVE MINUTES, WE'RE GONNA HAVE BROTHER BLUES COMIN OUT OUR BUTTS

THE ENTIRE ALLEY WAS A SLAUGHTERHOUSE TWO OPENED CAR CASHES STRETCHED OUT ON THE GROUND



ANOTHER FRESH KILL LEFT HOOKED IN A WALL



AT THAT POINT GORDY COULD ONLY GUESS WHO THE BUTCHER WAS



ANYWAY O'LEARY, S IT YOU?

OH MAN, HELP ME

YEAH IT'S ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE, NICKY?

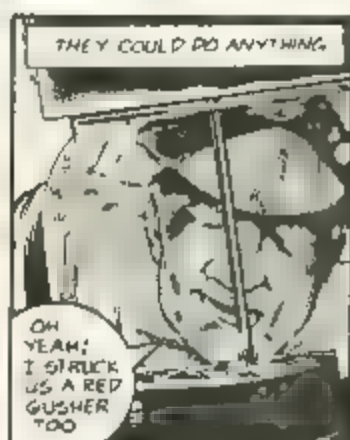
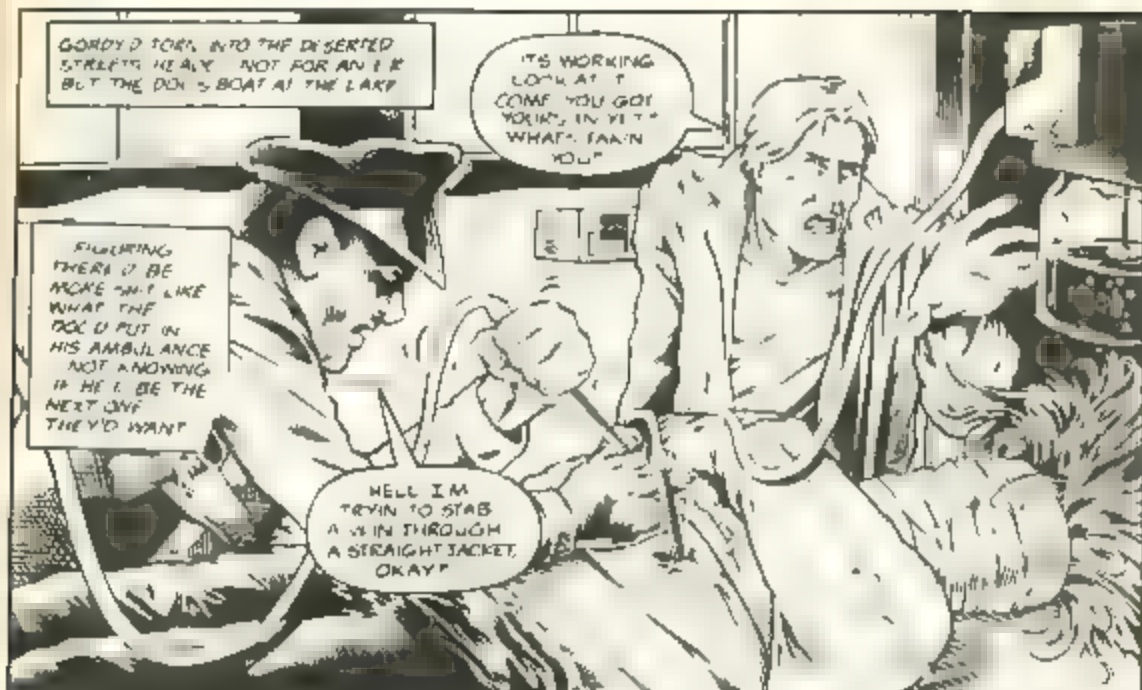


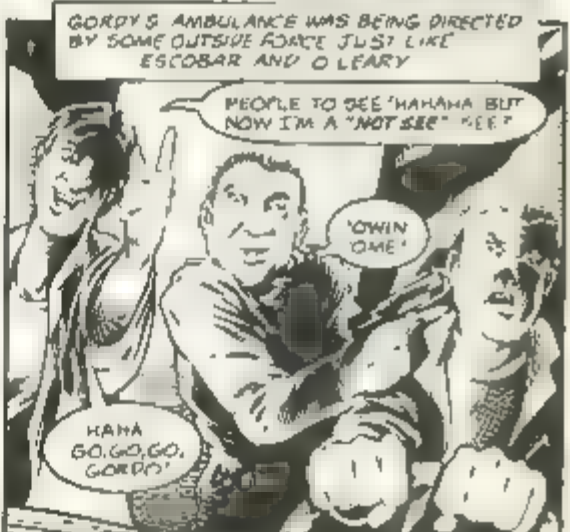
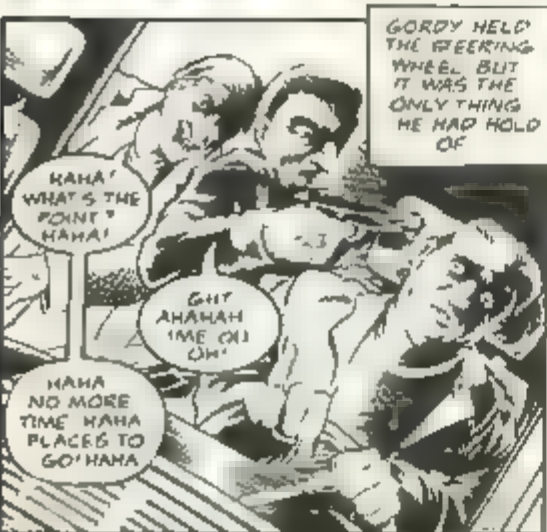
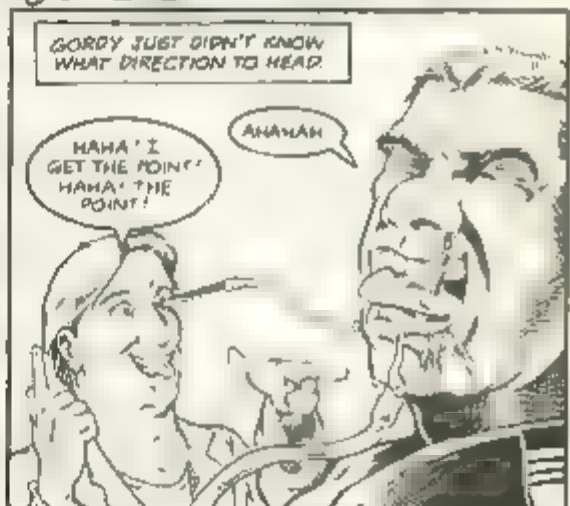
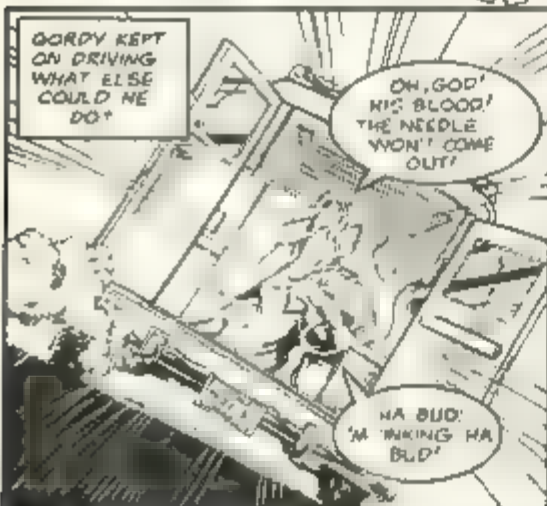
JEEZ, MAN WE PLAYED IT JUST LIKE YOU PAID FO' YOU KNOW, COMIN ON TO A LITTLE MUFFIN I SCARED 'ER ASS GOOD

MAN IT WAS JUST LIKE YOU SAID THIS DUDE SHOD' UP OUTTA NOWHERE, RIGHT 'TWEEN ME AND THE BAIT

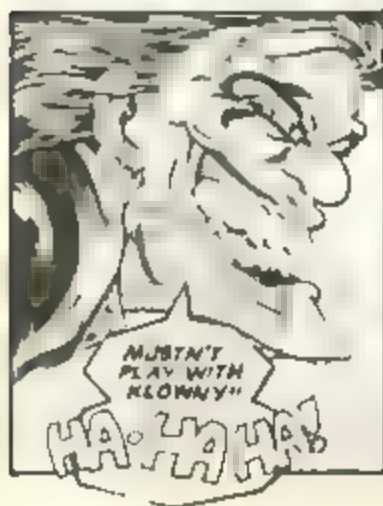


SO WHY'RE YOU SITTING HERE PUNK? AIN'T ALL YOU WAS PAID TO DO





AN HEAVENLY WYETH
WHEAT TON & WEST L-ING



AND THEN ALL WAS QUIET
EXCEPT FOR THE LAUGHTER
THAT WOULDN'T GO AWAY
GURLEY STOPPED FEAVING

THE
DUST
WAS
SE-ING

HE KNEW HE WAS IN A BAD
ONE IF NOT FOR HIS SEATBELT
HE' BE ONE OF THE BLOTS HE
WAS ALWAYS SCRAPING UP

AT LEAST HE COULD WALK
AWAY LEAVE T ALL BEHIND

BUT THEN HE SAW HE COULDN'T
NOT YET MAYBE NOT EVER AS
LONG AS THE LAUGHTER
CONTINUED

THE
SHOW
WASN'T
OVER

WAS JUST
BE WINNING

YOU NOO!!
MR POLICEMAN!!

WAAAAH!!

CITIZEN'S
ARREST!!
CITIZEN'S
ARREST!!

CHICAGO
CITIZEN'S
ARREST!!

AN LAKE
HAD A RAINBOW
SEAT

THE ABYSS
ALSO GIGGLES



MACABRE EROTICA

THE
OF FOUR

TIM VIGIL DID IT!

THE MASTER YES HE DID NO SEX

A FOUR POSTER SET & FULL
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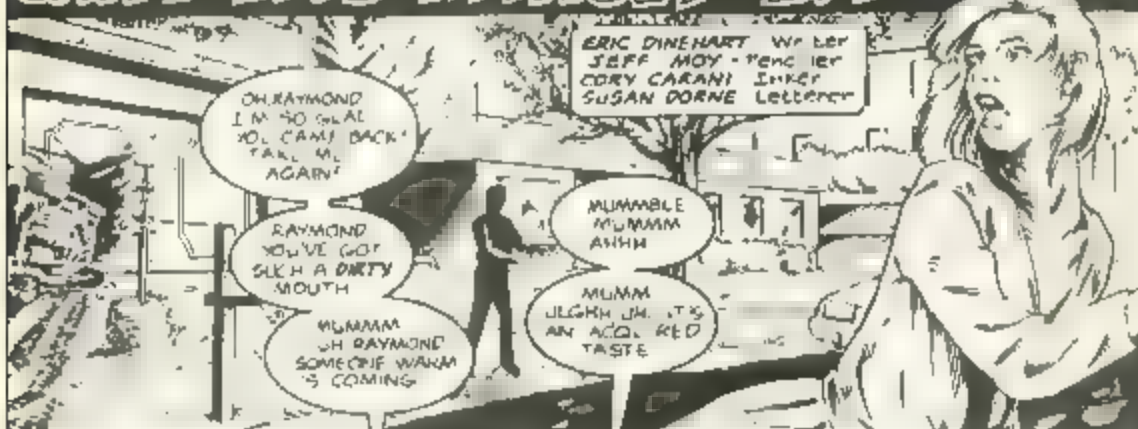
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CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT 'EM











THE INTELLIGENT CHOICE



THE DEATH OF VORTEX

Not really. We just wanted to get your attention. This issue is a special book in many ways and we want to make sure you know about it.

- *A Foil Enhanced Cover By Image's Own Marat (Brigade) Mychaels*
- *The Debut Of The Dynamic Antonio Daniel As Regular Artist For The Elementals*
- *The Origin Of Strike Force America*
- *The First Assault On The Planet Oblivion*
- *The New Monolith Goes Home From The Hospital*
- *A Behemoth Diet Update*

And though we deem it unwise to kill off one of our main characters at this time, we *are* consigning to the grave many of our ancillary super heroes in this issue. If this results in a major increase in readership, we may reconsider just how valuable *Fathom*, *Monolith*, *Morningstar* and *Vortex* really are to the *Comico* organization.

NORTHSTAR

THE NEW STANDARD
IN SHOCK HORROR!

SLASH



ISSUE THREE

JUST GET IT!